

VZCZCXRO7519
PP RUEHDBU
DE RUEHNT #0245 0311343
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 311343Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5109
INFO RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 2219
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 2118
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY 7572
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 1702
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6531
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 1660

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000245

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN, SA, AND DRL

E.O. 12958: 01/31/16

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UZ](#)

SUBJECT: (U) NATIONAL TV AND RADIO REPLACES STATE TV

CLASSIFIED BY AMB. JON R. PURNELL, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B, D).

REF: 05 TASHKENT 3128

¶1. (U) On January 28 Uzbekistan's state-owned television company, "Uzbekistan State Television and Radio," officially reverted to its former name of "Uzbekistan National Television and Radio." This followed a November presidential decree bringing television and radio stations under unified management, sharing news and programming content (reftel). Tashkent Television Channel and Dostlik Radio have merged to become Tashkent TV and Radio. Yoshlar ("Youth") TV and Radio stations have become a "closed joint stock society." Channel Sport and Mashal ("Beacon") Radio have merged to form Sport TV and Radio.

¶2. (C) Comment: While couched in language about strengthening competition and increasing the independence of television and radio, the reforms to state television are clearly designed to tighten GOU control of the mass media. The consolidation of several television and radio channels will impose further uniformity of content and editorial positions, and give the President even greater control over the flow of information.

PURNELL